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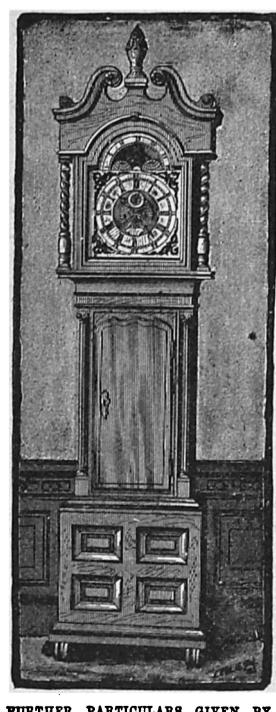
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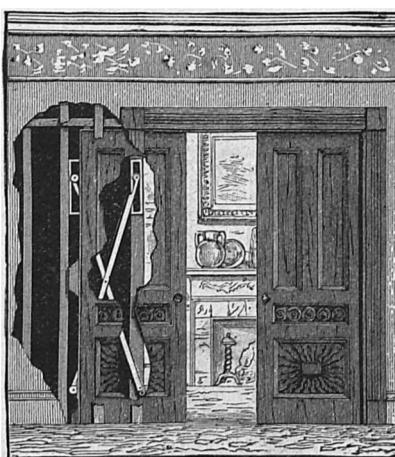
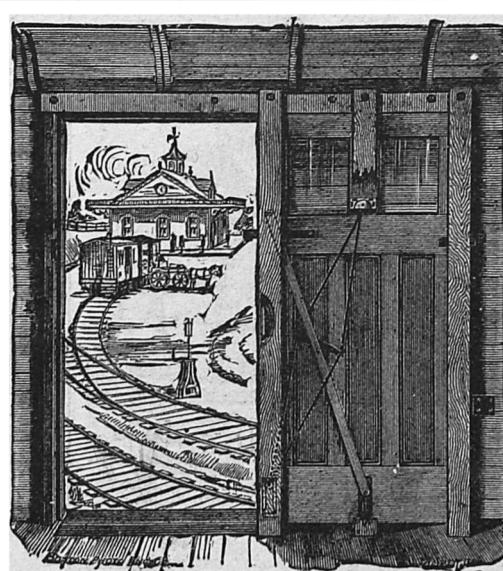
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A KING of Siam once built in one of his country palaces a most singular pavilion. The tables, chairs, etc., are all composed of crystal. The walls, ceilings, and floors are formed of pieces of plate glass, about one inch thick and six feet square, so nicely united by a cement which is as transparent as glass itself, that the most subtle fluid cannot penetrate. There is but one door, which shuts so closely that it is impenetrable to water. A Chinese engineer constructed it thus as a certain remedy against the insupportable heat of the climate. This pavilion is twenty-eight feet in length, and seventeen in breadth; it is placed in the midst of a great basin paved and ornamented with marble of various colors.

When you enter the pavilion the door is immediately closed and cemented with mastic to hinder the water from entering; it is then that they open the sluices and this great basin is soon filled with water, so that the building is entirely covered except the top of the dome left open for respiration.

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NERO'S GOLDEN HOUSE.

THE palace itself was raised on the shores of the lake. The various wings were united by galleries, each a mile in length. The "house" or dwelling of the Emperor was gorgeously decorated. It was tiled with gold (whence its name), with which precious metal also the marble sheathing of the walls was profusely decked, being at the same time embellished with ornaments of mother-of-pearl (which was in those times more valued than gold), and with a profusion of precious stones. The ceilings and woodwork were inlaid with ivory and gold, and the roof of the grand banqueting hall was made to resemble the firmament. It was contrived to have a rotatory motion, so as to imitate the supposed motion of the heavenly bodies, and from it were showered perfumed waters. The vastness of the plan prevented the Golden House being finished during Nero's life; it was completed by Otho, but was in part destroyed by Vespasian, who commenced on the site the celebrated Coliseum; and a fire in Trajan's reign proved fatal to many of its majestic piles of buildings.—From a description of Rome by W. J. O'Hea.

A FAIR OFFER.

CHARLES XII., having taken a town from the Duke of Saxony, then King of Poland, the duke intimated that there must have been some treachery in the case. On which Charles offered to restore the town, replace the garrison, and then take it by storm.

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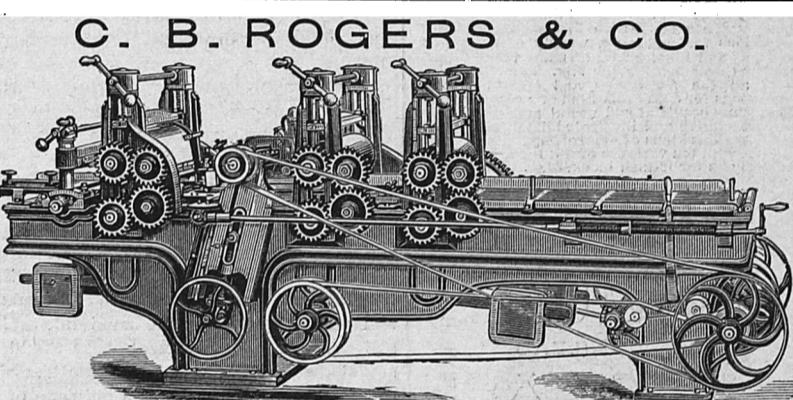
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